

THE WORD OF AN ENGINEER



LibriVox

James Weldon Johnson

James Weldon Johnson was an American author, educator, lawyer, diplomat, songwriter, and civil rights activist. Johnson is best remembered for his leadership within the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he started working in 1917, being chosen as the first black executive secretary of the organization, effectively the operating officer. He was first known for his writing, which includes poems, novels, and anthologies collecting both poems and spirituals of black culture. (Summary from Wikipedia)

Read by LibriVox volunteers. Total running time: 00:07:12

last 2 verses

**Over the ridge, Across the bridge,
Swung twixt the sky and hell,
On an iron thread Spun from the head
Of the man in a draughtsman's cell.**

**And so we ride Over land and tide,
Without a thought of fear—
Man never had *The faith in God*
That he has in an engineer!**

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Along the trail Of the slender rail The train, like a nightmare, flies And dashes on Through the black-mouthed yawn Where the cavernous tunnel lies. [49]